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Andrew Jackson to James Winchester, March 15, 1809, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JAMES WINCHESTER.1

1 In Governor Sevier to, Jackson, Jan. 12, 1809, Brig.-Gen. Winchester is designated to command the detachment of Tennessee militia to be raised for the contemplated service. Jackson's letter to Sevier of Feb. 20, 1809, here mentioned is not in the Jackson MSS.

March 15th 1809

Dear Genl. I have just recd, your letter of the 4th instant inclosing the Detail of your Bridgade.

On the 20th ultimo I wrote the Governor and stated to him the absolute necessity of Directing the adjutant GenI to forward to me without delay, the quota required of my Division under the present requisition, fearfull that the former order alluded to in his late order of the 12th. of January had not reached, you nor the other Brigadiers of my Division, knowing none such had ever reached me. Not having recd. any answer from him as yet I dispair of his noticing my request. I am therefore the more pleased, with the plan you have adopted, If *war* there cannot be too many in readiness if peace it will do honour to the patriotism of the Division that such ardor was displayed on the signal of our government that our country and our Liberties were endangered.

It is certainly time that the regular channel and mode would have been as you have stated, and it is much to be regretted, that the governor did not persue it, on the present urgent occasion, but you know as well as I do that if he knows his duty as a military man he never performs it. Therefore to remedy this defect as far as possible, I have this day

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wrote to Generals; Johnston and Roberts, To furnish from their respective Brigades 500 men including volunteers and to be completely officered as pr your detail, and as soon as their quota is made up to inform you thereof, and transmit to me, a compleet return, of the officers and men ready for the field. as soon as this is done I will furnish you with a duplicate return, and forward one to the executive. the governor has directed me to corrispond with you "upon any immediate occurrence that may be necessary on the occasion." This will give me pleasure, and I hope by the next mail after this reaches you to receive advice, that the quota in your Brigade is ready for the field.